Causes of the Civil War

1. William H. Seward (1858) – claimed two things, one that the sectional hostility was an accident and in the other was that it was unstoppable (inevitable).
2. Henry Wilson (1872-1877) – argued that Northerners had fought to preserve the Union and to create a system of free labor against the South; also a part of the view of James Ford Rhodes.
3. Charles and Mary Beard (1927) – argued that the conflict was over Northern industrialists and Southern planters; they fought to preserve their economic interests.
4. Allan Nevins (1947-1971) – argued that the North and South became increasingly different and the root of the problem was slavery.
5. Eric Foner (1970) – emphasized the importance of the “free-labor ideology”
6. Eugene Genovese (1965) – argued that the slave system brought a more humane society than that of the industrials in the North.
7. James G. Randall ( historians of 1920s + 1930s) – argued that the (economic and social) two systems, (N and S) were not different, suggested that slavery was to die and that leaders during this time were to blame; also similar to the view of Avery Craven.
8. David Herbert Donald (1960) – argued that it was not the politicians of the 1850s, but was the way that they operated (that was cause of Civil War)
9. Michael Holt (Holt?! 1978) – emphasized the role of political parties and especially the collapse of the second party system rather than the sectional thoughts.
10. William Gienapp (1987) – argued that the disintegration of the party system in the early 1850s was less a result of the debate over slavery than other things (other things had created the Republican Party, over slavery).

I agree with a part of Charles and Mary Beard’s argument and Allen Nevins’s argument. The South had profited largely from their plantations at the time, if there was no need for slaves, then they would not care about them, they wanted to protect their economic interests. I also thought that the North and South had become different as well as a result of slavery, the North had created a system of free-labor because of it, and the South continued slavery and made rules and culture about blacks as inferior.